GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:149
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2004
IMPORT OF WASTE TEA
Madhwaraj Smt. Manorama

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that several tea exporters from India have been importing waste tea from Indonesia and other countries and re-exporting them as Orthodox tea variety;

(b) whether Libya has recently rejected a huge consignment of tea from India as sub-standard and if so, whether the Certificate of Origin for this consignment was issued by the Jodhpur Chamber of Commerce rather than Tea Board;

(c) whether the Government would consider appointing Tea Board as the sole inspection agency for tea exports from India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH)

(a) : An instance has recently come to notice of poor quality tea having been reportedly imported from Vietnam for re-export to Libya.

(b) : No, Sir.

(c) & (d): To ensure better surveillance on quality of tea exports, Tea Board have proposed certain provisions and regulations under the Tea Act 1953. The matter is under consideration.